

REMARKS

The above amendments are submitted along with the following remarks to be fully responsive to the Official Action mailed March 21, 2006. It is further submitted that this response is timely filed within the shortened-statutory period as extended by the one month request for extension of time filed concurrently herewith. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of rejection and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Each of independent claims 1, 21, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by the reference to Iwen et al. It is submitted that each of the currently amended independent claims 1, 21 and 34 are patentably distinct from the Iwen et al reference for at least the reasons set out below. Moreover, dependent claims 2, 6-20, 22-27, 29-33, and 35-37 are also patentable at least in that they depend from allowable independent claims.

By the present amendment, claims 1, 21 and 34 are amended to further recite that the methods and enclosure created by such methods utilize a plurality of barrier sheet lengths that are attached or secured in place to structural elements of preexisting structure. Moreover, at least two of the plural lengths are claimed as provided lengthwise in an overlapping relationship with holding systems (such as adhesive) provided along edge and intermediate zones of the at least two lengths of barrier sheet material. The barrier sheet lengths are also claimed as secured to structural elements to create a barrier as part of an enclosure.

The disclosure of the Iwen et al reference is directed to creating a barrier as part of an enclosure that utilizes flexible sheeting and an adhesive strip 32 used for partially attaching the sheeting to a surface of a structural element. However, the Iwen et al reference is directed to providing sheeting that is applied in a fundamentally different manner than that of the present invention. For removal of volatile or other materials where control is strictly desired, Iwen et al, like other prior art, attempt to provide a barrier with minimal seams (preferably no seams at all along surfaces, such as walls or the like) to create an enclosure. To do this, Iwen et al (and that described in the Background section of Iwen et al) rely on the use of sheeting that is sufficiently wide to completely cover a whole wall surface or the like. Then, for greater integrity, they also require a second layer covering a first layer to create such an enclosure. The Iwen et al system thus comprises a sheeting material that is wide enough to create both layers covering a single wall surface by folding at near a midpoint thereof. To facilitate hanging of the two layers to a wall, an adhesive strip is provided at least preferably along the midpoint of the sheet that permits

hanging of the bifolded material at the upper edge of a wall (see column 3, line 23 through column 4, line 5). Other various folding techniques are discussed to provide such sheeting so as to be applied in the manner of providing a two layer covering over an entire wall surface.

The present invention is fundamentally different in that the discrete and separately applied barrier sheet lengths are applied in a way that creates overlapping seams between adjacent sheet lengths as applied to a common surface. Moreover, the holding systems, as preferably comprising adhesive, are applied to include at least edge and intermediate zones that not only facilitate securement to one or more structural surfaces, but also to connect with adjacent length of barrier sheeting. Methods and enclosures covered by the present invention are based upon using such plural lengths of barrier sheeting to create an enclosure (at least partially) without having to handle excessively wide sheeting. Iwen et al only recognizes the use of such wide sheeting and thus proposes a way to help hang the wide sheeting material. The methods and enclosures of the present invention are an entirely different application. A worker can take a roll of barrier sheet material and cut lengths from the roll and independently apply such determinate lengths to walls, ceilings, floors, and the like in a way to overlap lengths and create an effective barrier or enclosure. The holding system as provided to edge and intermediate zones, at least, are instrumental in attaching the sheet lengths to structural surfaces and to each other as an effective barrier. The edge holding zones, for example, attach lengths along an overlapping portion to effectively create a wide sheet from plural independent lengths. For additional integrity of the enclosure, a second layer can be added in the very same way, but preferably with seams spaced so as to enhance the barrier control. The use, in particular, of pressure sensitive adhesive along at least the edge and intermediate zones (or in a pattern or full coverage) further enhances the ability to create a barrier with controlled and secure seams and attachment to structural components without falling from the surfaces. Reference is made to the Example section of the subject application and the comparative information in the tables on pages 33 and 35 to show the effectiveness and ease of the methods and enclosures of the present invention.


It is submitted that the amendments to independent claims 1, 21 and 34 emphasize the above distinctions. Claim 1 recites a method including the use of first and second barrier sheet lengths that are distinctly provided from one another and are attached in an overlapping relationship. The first and second barrier sheet lengths are attached to a first surface of a first structural element and to a second surface of a second structural element for creating a barrier as

part of an enclosure. The method of claim 21 likewise sets out two separate securement steps of first and second barrier sheet lengths where the first barrier sheet length is adhered to a non-working surfaces of a second structural element and another structural element and the second barrier sheet length is adhered along side the first barrier sheet length to an overlapping portion thereof by its edge zone and to the non-working surface of at least the second structural element by its intermediate zone. The claimed enclosure of claim 34 comprises a plurality of lengths of barrier sheet material with a first length of barrier sheet material lengthwise overlapping with a second length of barrier sheet material. The enclosure is further set out as comprising the working surface (e.g. for abatement) along with the plurality of lengths of barrier sheet material as extending between plural non-working surfaces. Allowance of independent claims 1, 21 and 34 is believed proper and requested based at least upon the fundamental distinction discussed above between the provision of plural lengths of barrier sheet material that together create barriers as compared with the use of wide single sheets for the same purpose, which distinction is facilitated by the use of a unique sheet material holding system and manner of application to create at least a partial enclosure.

Accordingly, it is submitted that presently pending claims 1, 2, 6-27, and 29-37 are currently in condition for allowance, a notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner finds any issue remaining after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, in order to expedite any remaining prosecution.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 7-21-06 By:



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